

Archbold (*continued from page 3*)

The color of the trim on his dress coat was crimson, as were his Ordnance Sergeant's stripes, which consisted of three chevrons with a star in the center. He also wore a 1½ inch crimson stripe on his trousers to designate his status as sergeant. When he was initially appointed to Ordnance Sergeant, in 1856, he would have worn a shako with crimson piping, which would be replaced in 1858, or shortly after, by a dress hat with a crimson cord and bursting bomb insignia of the Ordnance Corps. For full dress occasions, he would wear a crimson sash around his waist and be armed with a non-commissioned officer's sword.

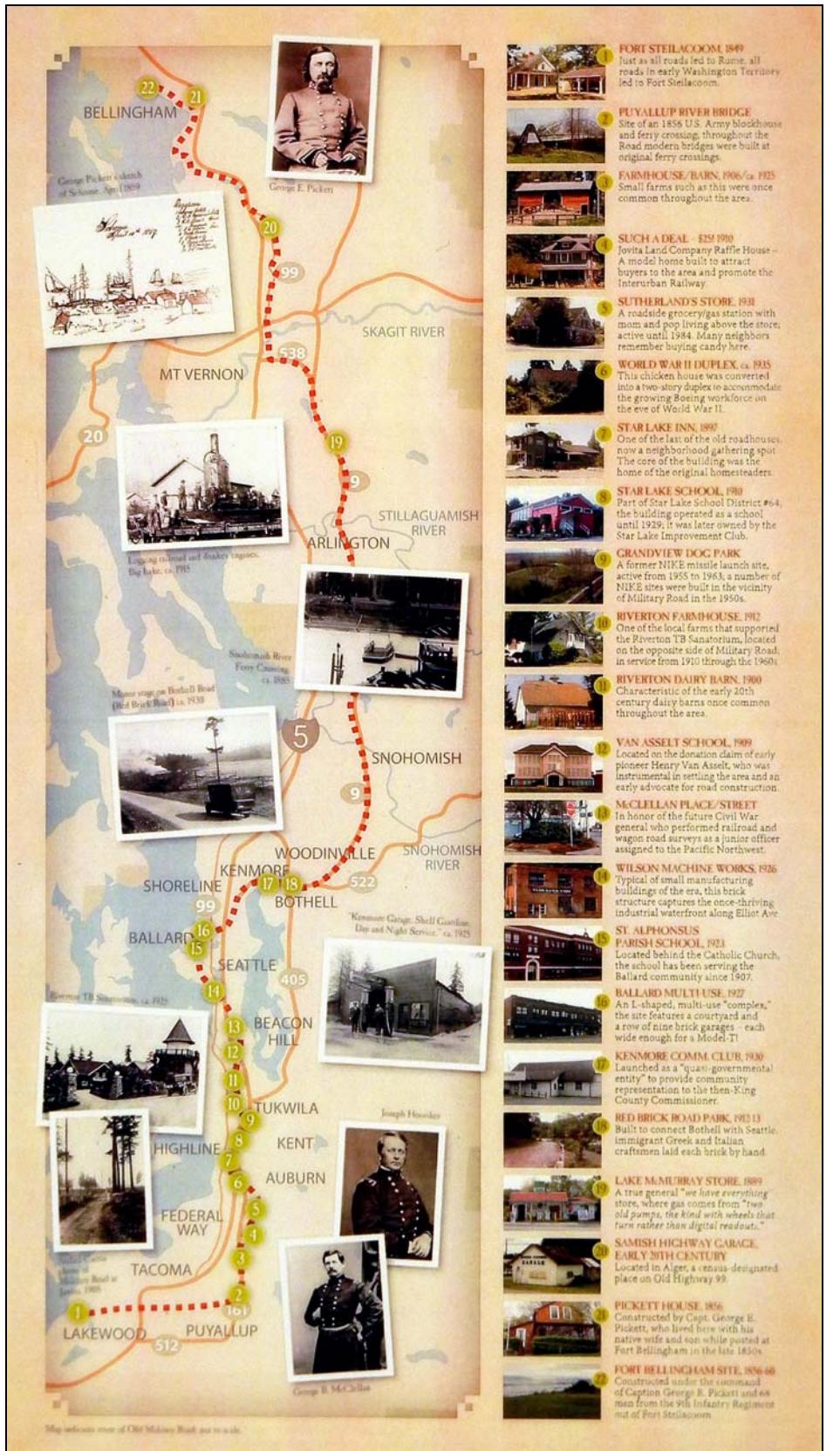
Every official document related to Ordnance Sergeant Archbold's service indicates that his character was "good" and his service efficient. When Colonel Joseph K. F. Mansfield, Inspector General, U.S.A., inspected Fort Steilacoom in December 1858, he made the following comments in his report:

"Post Ordnance and Magazine—There are 3 twelve pound mountain howitzers in excellent order placed under the portico of the magazine; 180 twelve pd stripped shot; 97 twelve pd canister shot; 145 spherical case shot, 8 shells; 20 muskets; 34 rifles; 3 pistols; 1 revolver; 29,200 percussion caps; 3,000 pistol ball cartridges; 41 blank howitzer cartridges; 20,700 rifle ball cartridges; 5,000 rifle balls; 2,000 rifle blank cartridges. The ordnance is well stored in a good wooden magazine, well constructed for the purpose, and a good ordnance sergeant has charge of the same."

(To be continued in next issue.)

Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road

On November 20, Karen Meador will tell about the Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham road, constructed under the supervision of the U.S. Army in the 1850s. Quarters 2 at 2 p.m.



Courtesy Karen Meador & Federal Way Historical Society

This illustrated map shows the military road route from Fort Steilacoom (Lakewood) to Fort Bellingham. It roughly follows today's I-5 with stops along the way noted in the later day photos and descriptions at the right. Karen Meador will follow this route in detail with many photographs.

Fort Steilacoom

Vol. 33, No. 4

Fort Steilacoom, Washington

Winter 2016

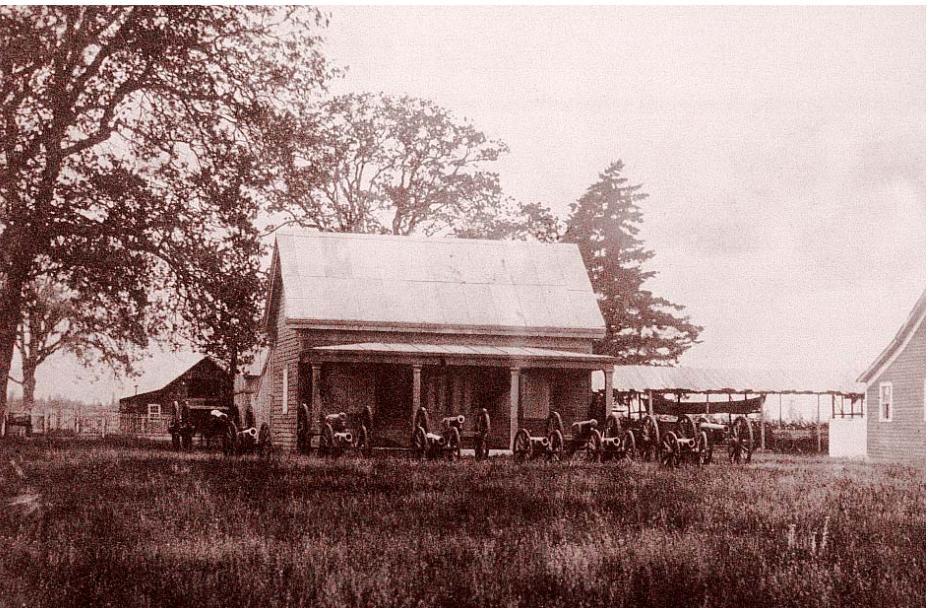
William H. Archbold The Ordnance Sergeant of Fort Steilacoom

by Alan H. Archambault

A number of distinguished military officers are associated with Fort Steilacoom during the years 1849-1868. Previous articles have been written for this newsletter on commissioned officers like Silas Casey, E. Porter Alexander and August Kautz. However, we generally do not know as much about the enlisted soldiers who served at Fort Steilacoom.

In a recent article dealing with the Fort Steilacoom Post Cemetery, Kenneth Morgan mentions Sergeant William H. Archbold, who died in April 1868. Ken speculated that Sergeant Archbold was most likely the last soldier interred in the post cemetery. However, he did not have any information on his military service or death. Fortunately, information on Sergeant Archbold has been found in the military records section of the National Archives that will shed a bit more light on his service and strong connection to the history of Fort Steilacoom.

The earliest document I found relating to Sergeant Archbold was his discharge certificate dated 3 September 1854. The reason for the discharge was Archbold's fulfillment of a five year enlistment and his reenlistment in Company A, 4th Infantry Regiment. According to the discharge, Archbold had enlisted on 10 October 1849 for five years. It states that he was born in Middlesex, (although some other documents list it as Middletown), Massachusetts,



Archbold was in charge of ordnance at Fort Steilacoom, which included the guns and ammunition inside the above metal-roofed magazine and the mountain howitzers outside under the portico.

and was 35 years of age and 5 feet 8 inches high. He had a fair complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. The discharge states, "The character of Sergt Archbold has been uniformly good." The document concludes with, "Given under my hand at Fort Steilacoom, W.T. this Third Day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and fifty four, D.A. Russell, 1st LT 4th Inf."

The next document in Archbold's service file is reflective of his outstanding service and abilities. It reads:

"Army of the United States of America, Ordnance Sergeant, At Fort Steilacoom, W.T., To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greetings. Know Ye, That this is to certify, that Sergeant William H., Archbold, of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry having served Faithfully, Eight years, in the Army of the United States, Four years of which in the grade of Non-commissioned Officer, and having the recommendation of his Captain, approved by the Colonel of his Regiment, as being a fit and proper person to receive the appointment of Ordnance Sergeant, the

(Continued on page 3)

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Publication funded in part by City of Lakewood Lodging Tax Grant.



Alan Archambault presented an illustrated program telling about the Army's presence and importance in this region from Fort Steilacoom to Camp Lewis and beyond.

President's Message



Greetings!

As you read this message and newsletter, the Board of Directors for the Historic Fort Steilacoom Association is gearing up for an incredible 2017 museum season!

First of all, an introduction might be necessary. I am a very familiar face for most of you, but perhaps am an unfamiliar one to those of you who have only recently joined the wonderful membership that makes up this association that maintains and supports this historic old US Army Post.

My name is Gideon Pete. I have been elected as president by your Board of Directors to take up the reins of leadership from our beloved Carol Neufeld Stout. Carol is stepping down from her long run in leading this association for a well deserved rest. Carol has done an outstanding job for us, one in which we can all be proud. I can honestly say, that in all my years with HFSA, the buildings and exhibits have never looked better. Thank you, Carol!

Historically yours,
Gideon

Fort Stelacoom to Camp Lewis

On October 16, Alan Archambault gave an outstanding talk to mark the centennial of the establishment of Camp Lewis, which later became Fort Lewis and now Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Pierce County.

In 1916, leaders in the county saw a financial advantage to having a military establishment here, as there had been in the days of Fort Steilacoom. Voters decided to purchase and acquire land (some of which included a portion of the Nisqually reservation) and donate it to the United States government. The government accepted the land in 1917 just prior to World War I and established Camp Lewis here.

After the war, the Army wanted to close the camp, but the gift included a clause that required that it be maintained. Financially, that was a protection for the county, but it also proved to be important when World War II broke out and the camp became Fort Lewis where thousands of troops were trained, as they still are today.



Copy of certificate appointing William H. Archbold to Ordnance Sergeant.

Archbold (continued from page 1)

Secretary of War, has selected him, in conformity with the second section of the act of the 5th of April, eighteen hundred and forty two, entitled an act providing for the organization of the Ordnance Department: And he is Hereby Appointed accordingly with all the rights, privileges, immunities and allowances appertaining to said appointment. He is therefore strictly charged carefully and diligently to perform and execute all duties belonging to said appointment, in conformity with the rules and regulations of the service. And he is to be respected accordingly. This appointment to take effect from the seventh day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-six given at the headquarters of the Army, in the City of New York, this Eight day of February 1856."

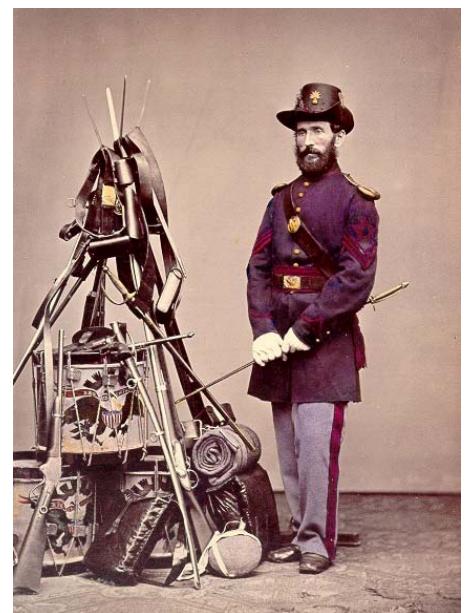
BY COMMAND:

Winfield Scott

Adjutant General

Ordnance Sergeant, *At Fort Steilacoom, N.Y.*

KNOW YE, That this is to Certify, that *Sergeant William H. Archbold*, of the *Fourth Regiment of Infantry*, having served FAITHFULLY, EIGHT YEARS, IN THE ARMY of the UNITED STATES, FOUR YEARS of which is in the grade of NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER, and having received the recommendation of his Captain, approved by the Colonel of his Regiment, as being a fit and proper person to receive the appointment of Ordnance Sergeant, the Secretary of War has selected him, in conformity with the second section of the act of the 5th of April, eighteen hundred and thirtytwo, entitled an act providing for the organization of the Ordnance Department: And he is HEREBY APPOINTED accordingly, with all the rights, privileges, immunities and allowances appertaining to said appointment. He is therefore strictly charged carefully and diligently to perform and execute all duties belonging to said appointment, in conformity with the rules and regulations of the service. And he is to be respected accordingly. This appointment to take effect from the seventh day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-six given at the headquarters of the Army, in the City of New York, this Eight day of February 1856.



Though this is not Sgt. Archbold, the tinted photo shows the typical uniform of an Ordnance Sergeant, circa 1858-1872. The trim on the coat was crimson, as was the 1½ inch stripe on the trousers.

officer, to the department to which the property appertains."

Interestingly, as a lieutenant, August Kautz was a company officer with the 4th Regiment, U.S. Infantry during part of the time that William Archbold served as the Ordnance Sergeant of Fort Steilacoom. Therefore, Kautz no doubt observed, first hand, the important duties performed by Ordnance Sergeant Archbold.

Ordnance Sergeant Archbold was assigned to Fort Steilacoom but, as was the policy, served on the non-commissioned staff of the unit that was stationed at the post at any given time. Therefore, documents in his military records list the following units that he served with: Company A, 4th Regiment U.S. Infantry, Company E, 4th Regiment California Volunteer Infantry (1862), Company G and K, 1st Regiment Washington Territory Infantry (1864), 2nd Regiment U.S. Artillery (1868).

Although Archbold served on the staffs of the various units assigned to the post, he was authorized to wear the distinctive regulation uniform of an Ordnance Sergeant.